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EASTERN

F.O.
371

1948

PALESTINE

FILE No.109.....

pp 5138 - 9695.....

68631

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73

E

5138

2

1948

PALESTINE

26 APR 1948

Registry Number E5138/109/31

TELEGRAM FROM
Consul GeneralNo. JIBUTII
12

Dated 24th April

Received 26th
to RegistryEscaped Jewish Terrorists.

Refers Jibuti telegram No 1 (E942/109/31)
Despite assurances given by French Governor of
Jibuti Yessernitsky and Zabrowski sailed 23rd April
for unknown destination on board French warship
which must be one of several recently at Jibuti.
Understands men are under escort and that this move
is being carried out on instructions of French
Government, Paris.

Last Paper.

4930

References.

68631

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

3) Mr. Higham (C.O.)
Mr. Polenton (M.I.S.)
April 29

(Action
completed.)C.A.
26/5

(Index.)

26/5
2/1/4

Next Paper.

5793

Wt. 24772/117 17895 10/38 F.O.P.

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Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM JIBUTI TO FOREIGN OFFICE

His Majesty's Consul

No. 12

24th April, 1948

D. 3.15 p.m. 24th April, 1948

R. 4.05 p.m. 24th April, 1948

Repeated to Paris
Jerusalem
Addis Ababa
Ciudad Trujillo

Asmara
La Paz
Port Said

5138

MOST IMMEDIATE

26 APR 1948

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 12 of
April 24th. (Please pass to Paris, Jerusalem, Addis Ababa,
Ciudad Trujillo, Asmara, La Paz and Port Said for information.)

My telegram No. 1 (not to all addressees) regarding
two Jewish terrorists at Jibuti.

2. Despite assurances given me by French Governor
of Jibuti Yesernitsky and Zabrowski sailed yesterday
for unknown destination on board French warship which
must be one of several recently here.

3. Understand men are under escort and that this move
carried out on instructions of French Government Paris.

4. I have been unable to obtain interview with Governor
who is obviously playing for time but I would hazard
guess that men are aboard French aircraft carrier
Dixmude bound for France.

[Repeated to Paris, Addis Ababa, Ciudad Trujillo,
Asmara, La Paz and copies sent to Telegraph Section,
Colonial Office for repetition to Jerusalem and
Port Said.]

888

26 APR 1948
F O

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E

E 5193

4

1948

PALESTINE

26 APR 1948

Registry Number E5193/109/31

TELEGRAM FROM

Consul General

No. JIBUTI

13

Dated

26th April

Received in Registry

26th

Escaped Jewish Terrorists.

Refers Jibuti telegram No. 12 dated 24th April (E5138/109/31) Governor confirms that two Jewish terrorists are aboard the aircraft carrier "DIKRUDE" now bound for France. Governor states this action taken on instructions signed by President of the Council Paris and confirmed by his Ministry.

Last Paper.

5138

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, Higham, 80
Rotherham. N.Y.S.

April 29

(Action completed.)

P.L.H./6

(Index)

2/12/48

Next Paper.

5261

(Minutes.)

Copy Co. a Mus.

(usual names)

< resubmit with MP.

16 Apr. 27

I had an opportunity of speaking to the Embassy at Paris on this subject in the course of a telephone conversation. I was told that they had taken the matter up with the Quai d'Orsay on receipt of these two telegrams from Jibuti, first in an exploratory manner and later in stronger terms and in writing. The French official concerned knew nothing of the action that had been taken and said that it must have been done through the President of the Council's Office (as suggested within). I told the Embassy that they ought to keep a close eye on this matter as these men were dangerous members of the Stern Gang and that, although there might be little risk of their reaching Palestine in the near future, there was a risk that they would cause trouble either in France or possibly in England.

The Embassy have also seen that our security experts get in touch with their French opposite numbers in this matter. They seem to think that the French have got these men under arrest and propose to do something sensible with them when they arrive in France. I should not be surprised, however, if they were returning them to France, under pressure from influential Jewish circles, and that the men would simply be released. That is why I have told the Embassy they ought to take this matter seriously. The Embassy promise a further report as soon as they have a reply from the Quai d'Orsay, and we need send them no formal instructions until then.

Security Department.

J.G.S. Beith

(J.G.S. Beith)

1st May, 1948.

Wt. 24772/717 17895 10/38 F.O.P.

P.T.O.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Reference

FO 371/68631

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It is to be hoped that something
definite will be forthcoming from the French
authorities before the Disarmade docks. we shall be
intended to see what.

Referring 4/6.

JB June 8

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E 5193

[This telegram is of particular ^{26 APR 1948} ~~secret~~ and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on]

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM JIBUTI TO FOREIGN OFFICE

His Majesty's Consul

No. 13

26th April, 1948

D: 7.55 a.m. 26th April, 1948
R: 8.24 a.m. 26th April, 1948

IMMEDIATE
SECRET

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 13 of April 26th (please pass to Paris).

My immediately preceding telegram. E 5178

I have seen Governor who confirms that two Jewish terrorists are aboard the aircraft carrier Dixmude now bound for France.

2. Governor states this action taken on instructions signed by the President of the Council Paris and confirmed by his Ministry.

[Repeated to Paris]

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat]

G G G G



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95 <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">E</div> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">1948</div>	<div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">PALESTINE</div>	<div style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">6</div> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">E 5261</div> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">27 APR 1948</div>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 30%;"> <p>Registry Number E5261/109/31</p> <p>FROM Foreign Office</p> <p>No. Minute</p> <p>Dated Mr. Pyman</p> <p>Received in Registry 22nd April 27th "</p> </div> <div style="width: 70%;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Jewish Military Prospects in Palestine.</u></p> <p>Mr. Lewis Jones told Mr. Pyman that Mr. Goldmann of the Jewish Agency had expressed great confidence in Jewish Military prospects in Palestine. He estimated Jewish forces at 30,000 in the field, and 10,000 reserves in Palestine. They expected reinforcements of 20,000 trained men from Europe in the next two or three months. Against this the Arabs have 8,000 non Palestinians in the field and 10,000 very unenthusiastic Palestinian Arabs, and short of intervention by the Governments of the Arab States their largest number would be 40,000.</p> </div> </div>		
<p>Last Paper.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">5193</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(Minutes.)</p> <div style="text-align: right; font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">173. 27/4</div>	
<p>References.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">(Print.)</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">(How disposed of.)</p>		
<p>(Action completed.)</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">25/1/28</p>	<p>(Index.)</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">7/2/28</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Next Paper.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">5536</p>		

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Minutes

Enter E 7 E

5261

27 APR 1948

Mr. Lewis Jones told me that Mr. Goldmann of the Jewish Agency who had just passed through London on his way back from Palestine, had expressed great confidence in Jewish military prospects in Palestine.

His estimate of the Jewish forces in Palestine was that they had in the field 30,000 men and reserves in Palestine 10,000 men. They expected reinforcements of 20,000 trained men from Europe in the next two or three months.

Against this the Arabs have, according to Goldmann's estimate, 8,000 non-Palestinian Arabs in the field and 10,000 very unenthusiastic Palestinian Arabs. He reckoned that short of intervention by the Governments of the Arab States the largest number of men that the Arabs would be able to put into the field in the next two or three months would be 40,000.

L.F.L. Pyman

(L.F.L. Pyman)

22nd April, 1948.

A. Pyman
A. Bellman
He's right!
22/4

B.A. Brown
22.4

W. L.
23.4

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

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8

1948

PALESTINE

5574

MAY 1948

Registry Number E5574/109/31
FROM Sir O. Harvey
PARIS

N283

Dated 30.4.48.
Received in Registry 3.5.48.

Jewish Terrorists in Jibuti
Refers to Foreign Office telegram no 1320 of 24th April (E5138/109/31).
Encloses copy of note no 343 of 27th April to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the above.

Last Paper
5536

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

8, Higham. 20
Robertson. M-1.5
May 5

(Action completed)

5/11/48

(Index)

[Signature]

Next Paper

5666

Attach m.

(Minutes.)

Copy to
M15

usual names

Western Dept.

10 May 48

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No. 283.

HIS Majesty's Ambassador at Paris
presents his compliments to HMPS of S. for F.A.
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned
documents.

British Embassy,
Paris.

3 MAY 1948

30th April 1948.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Foreign Office telegram No. 1320 of the
24th April, 1948.

Description of Enclosure.

25/38

Name and Date.	Subject.
Copy of Note No. 343 to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the 27th April, 1948.	Jews - Terrorists.

8470A (80307) (8)

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197/13/48
No. 343.

British Embassy,

Paris.

27th April, 1948.

His Majesty's Embassy present their compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and have the honour to invite reference to correspondence ending with Mr. Ashley Clarke's letter to Monsieur Bousquet of 4th September last about two Jewish terrorists in Jibuti, Yesernitzky and Zabrowski.

2. According to a telegram received from His Majesty's Consul General Jibuti in January this year the Governor, after consultation with the appropriate authorities in Paris, agreed that these two men should be detained in Jibuti until the termination of the British mandate in Palestine.

3. His Majesty's Embassy have now been informed that Yesernitzky and Zabrowski left Jibuti on 23rd April on a French warship for an unknown destination. His Majesty's Consul General in Jibuti understands that the men left under escort, but has been unable to obtain any further information.

4. His Majesty's Embassy would be grateful to learn what action has been taken in this matter and what steps the French authorities are taking to ensure that these men do not return to Palestine before 15th May.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

10

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Piece... **68631**

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in the Department of origin
under Section 3 (4) of the
Public Records Act, 1958

E: 5666 / 109 / 31
E: 5678 / "
E: 5827 / "
E:

102

E

E 6045

1948

PALESTINE

11 MAY 1948

Registry
Number

E6045/109/31

FROM

Consul Boam
(Jebuti)

No.

14 (S. 9/48)

Dated

Received
in Registry

26 April

11 May

Jewish terrorists at Jebuti

Refers to Jebuti let L 13. (E 5193/109/31)
 of April 26. ARIEN BEN ELIEZER and ITZAK
 YESERNITSKY left Jebuti for France on board
 French aircraft carrier 'DIXMUE' on May 23.
 Gives reasons why the French government
 did not inform H.M. Consul of the impending
 departure of these two terrorists.

Last Paper

5943

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action
completed)

P. 1/6

(Index)

2/2/48

Next Paper

S. 1/6
E 6042

(Minutes.)

H.M. Consul did all he could.
 Security Dept.
 Western Dept.
 Mr Henniker
 29/5
 18 May 12

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Reference:-

FO 371/68631

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CONFIDENTIAL

No. 14

(S. 9/48)

British Consulate,

JIBUTI,

26th April, 1948.

E 6045

11 MAY 1948

Sir,

I have the honour to invite your reference to my telegrams Nos. 12 and 13 of the 24th and 26th instant respectively, in which I reported that the two Jewish terrorists at JIBUTI (ARIEH BEN ELIEZER alias LIPA ZABROVSKY and ITZAK YESERNITSKY alias DOV SHAMIR alias MAURICE MANN) had left this Territory for FRANCE aboard the French escort aircraft carrier "DIXMUDE" on the 23rd instant.

2. Despite the verbal assurances given me by Monsieur SIRIEUX, Governor of the French Somali Coast, to the effect that he would at once inform me of any instructions he might receive from PARIS to remove the two men from JIBUTI before August 1st, no prior information was given me of the intention to send the men to FRANCE. Plans for the removal of the men were conducted with the utmost secrecy but I am happy to be able to report that, notwithstanding these secret negotiations, I was able to report their correct destination and their means of travel within a matter of hours after their departure from JIBUTI.

3. As soon as it became known that the men were no longer at JIBUTI, I immediately requested an interview with Monsieur SIRIEUX but was informed that he was extremely busy and that he could not see me until today (Monday). I was able, however, to reduce the time limit by inviting him to dinner at my house last night, when I obtained from him the required details.

4. Monsieur SIRIEUX informed me that when the French Aircraft carrier "DIXMUDE" arrived here on the 20th instant from SAIGON, the Commanding Officer handed him a sealed envelope containing written orders signed by the PRESIDENT DU CONSEIL, PARIS, instructing him (the Governor) to arrange for the safe conduct to FRANCE aboard the "DIXMUDE" of the two men who have been here since April of last year. Monsieur SIRIEUX, as a precautionary measure, immediately cabled his Ministry in France and obtained confirmation of these orders. The men were handed over and placed in "protective custody" aboard the French carrier, which is now on her way to France. Monsieur SIRIEUX explained that, as these instructions were secret, he could not see his way to informing me of his intention to send the men away which, in the circumstances, may be regarded as reasonable.

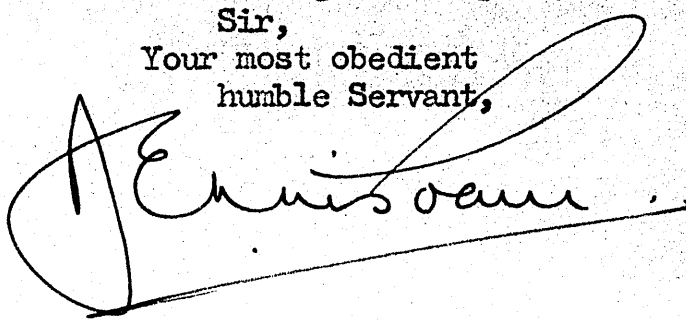
I am sending copies of this despatch to His Majesty's Ambassador, PARIS, His Majesty's Ambassador, CAIRO, His Majesty's Ambassador, LA PAZ, High Commissioner for Palestine, His Majesty's Charge d'Affaires, ADDIS ABABA, British Military Administrator, ASMARA, His Majesty's Minister, CIUDAD TRUJILLO and His Majesty's Consul, PORT SAID.

I have the honour to be,
with the highest respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient
humble Servant,

His Majesty's Principal
Secretary of State for
Foreign Affairs,
Foreign Office,
LONDON S.W. 1.



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105	E	E 6182 13
17948	PALESTINE	13 MAY 1948

Registry Number E6182/109/31 TELEGRAM FROM Sir O. Harvey PARIS No. 643 SECRET Dated May 12, 1948 Received in Registry May 13, 1948	<u>Escaped Jewish Terrorists</u> Refers to Foreign Office telegram 1454 of May 7 (E5666/109/31) Reports conversations with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the subject and have lost no opportunity at police level of emphasising the need for putting the two terrorists out of harm's way.
---	--

Last Paper. 6092 References. (Print.) (How disposed of.) 8/ Mr. Hughes (C.O.) 14 May Mr. Robertson (MIS) may	(Minutes.) <p>The French Embassy told Mr Henrici that both were going to Hendaye - but that is a detail.</p> <p>I wonder they don't call the arrangement with the I.Z.L. and Stern Gang a "gentlemen's agreement"! But it is satisfactory that Sup. Thompson thinks the presenting Private Sec. safeguards are adequate.</p> <p>Security Dept. 12/5. Mr. Quinn May 13</p> <p>A copy shd. have gone to Mr Colville to reassure him. We are sending one which shd. just about catch him before leaving.</p> <p>14.5 16.5</p>
(Action completed.) 25/5 (Index) Next Paper. Σ 6432	32008 F.O.P.

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Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir O. Harvey,
No. 643
12th May, 1948.

D. 8.55 p.m. 12th May, 1948.

R. 9.15 p.m. 12th May, 1948.

IMMEDIATE
SECRET

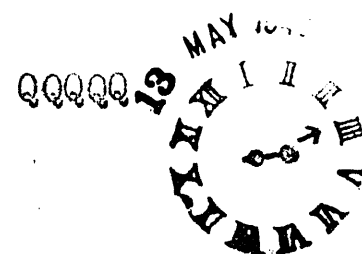
Your telegram No. 1454.

Jewish terrorists.

E 5666/109/50 E 6182
13 MAY 1948

We have had frequent conversations on this question with Ministry of Foreign Affairs and have lost no opportunity at the police level of emphasising the need for putting these two terrorists out of harm's way. Up till yesterday we could get no more than a verbal guarantee that all the necessary measures had been taken to prevent their causing an incident; we made it clear that this was not enough, but Ministry still would not tell us what these measures were. Today, however, Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed us in confidence that one of the two was being sent under close supervision to Hendaye and the other to Nice for the period of the visit; if they showed any signs of giving trouble they would be arrested. Moreover they had the written agreement of the Stern Gang and Irgun that they would cause no incident during the visit. Although Ministry did not claim that this provided a certain guarantee, they said that they had in the past had assurances from these organisations about terrorists activities in France which had been respected. The fact was that terrorist organisations knew that Jews had everything to lose by starting such activities on French soil e.g. facilities for transit of Jews through France.

2. Superintendent Thompson assures me that he is now satisfied with the security arrangements made by the French. It is evident that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have had their usual fierce battle with the Ministry of the Interior and they particularly stressed that the communication referred to above, which they do not wish to put in writing should be regarded as confidential.



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E 6432

19 MAY 1948

1948

PALESTINE

Registry Number } E6432/109/31

FROM Chancery PARIS
to Eastern Dept

No. 197/20/48

Dated May 12, 1948

Received
in Registry May 19, 1948Two Jibuti terrorists in Paris.Refers to Paris telegram 599 of May 3
(E5666/109/31)

Gives background information on the difficulties experienced with the French Ministry of the Interior in getting them to put the two Jewish terrorists Yesternitzky and Zabrowsky out of harms way during the Royal visit to Paris.

Last Paper

6182

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

Yangs. Balville
Buckingham PalaceR.M. Howe
Scotland Yard
25 May(Action
completed)

J.P.H./6

(Index)

2/2/48

Next Paper

6434

(Minutes.)

Copy Mr Colville, Buck. Palace
Security Dept 27/5. & Scotland Yard
Westminster Dept. Unsatisfactory
Private Sec. 14 May 29/5.
J.P.H.
29/5

JB May 20

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34967



British Embassy,

Paris,

12th May 1948

19 MAY 1948

SECRET

REF: 197/20/48

Dear Department,

You will have seen from our telegram that adequate arrangements have been made to put the two Jibuti terrorists out of the way during the Royal Visit. You may however like a little further background as it illustrates the way in which these matters are handled in France.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs were of course quite willing to help but as usual found themselves up against a blank wall in the case of the Ministry of the Interior. The Minister of the Interior, Monsieur Moch, is himself a Jew and as we progressed it became fairly clear from hints dropped to us by the police that these two Jews enjoy very high protection in political circles. We do not know exactly who is concerned but Monsieur Moch and possibly Monsieur Blum seem obvious guesses. It also seems likely that there has been some kind of undertaking given to the two terrorists that they would not be arrested in return for their undertaking not to cause trouble in France. A good deal of this information came to us very confidentially from members of the police who had succeeded in getting hold of the dossier. As they themselves are charged with the security arrangements for the Royal Visit, they naturally did not see eye to eye with those who preferred to leave these men at liberty, and on several occasions they showed their disgust. We believe that they actually secured the arrest of Yesternitzky at one moment but that he was released later by order of their superiors, and on the intervention of Zabrowsky himself who up to that moment seemed to have disappeared. This news naturally alarmed us considerably and although we could not betray our knowledge of it in talking to the Ministry, we at once got in touch with them again to ask whether there were any developments. They had evidently been having a bad time with the Ministry of the Interior since they at once riposted that the only development had been the incorrect behaviour of the British Embassy in making a direct démarche to the Prefecture about this matter. Fortunately we were able to show them that this was not the case, and that indeed the only time that the Prefecture, properly speaking, had been approached on the subject was at a meeting held in the Protocole Department of the Quai d'Orsay. At this point, as explained in our telegram, we could only get a statement that the French authorities could absolutely guarantee that these people would cause no trouble during the Royal Visit, and they refused point blank to give any indication of the measures they were taking.

We still have hopes that we should be able to obtain more satisfactory information and assurances through the police since Superintendent Thomson had by that time arrived and was in almost continual conclave with them. Moreover Inspector Wilkinson was also in close touch being on a mission here in connection with the Farran murder. It therefore came as a pleasant/

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office.

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pleasant surprise when the Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed us that it had at last been decided to send the two men well out of the way. What tipped the balance is not likely to be known to us, but it is likely that Monsieur Massigli's strong representations had a considerable effect.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY

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107	E	E 6434
1948	PALESTINE	19 MAY 1948
Registry Number } E6434/109/31 FROM Mr Beith F.O. MINUTE No. Dated May 12, 1948 Received in Registry } May 19, 1948	Views of Dr Goldman, Chairman of the World Jewish Congress and member of Jewish Executive. Conversation with Mr Lewis Jones of the United States Embassy on May 12 regarding a talk between the latter and Dr Goldman, who gave the views of the Jews on the situation in Palestine and of their future policy there. Mr Jones pointed out that there was a feeling of frustration and annoyance towards the British amongst State Department officials concerned with the United Nations.	
Last Paper 6432	(Minutes.)	
References		
(Print)		
(How disposed of)		
(Action completed) P.P. 16/1/20/1	(Index) 16/1/20/1	
Next Paper 26755		

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JB May 20

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Minutes.

Palestine.

19 MAY 1948

Mr. Lewis Jones of the American Embassy told me today that he had just had a long talk with Dr. Goldman, Chairman of the World Jewish Congress and member of the Jewish Executive. Goldman is over here on a short trip from the States. He has come here, and Shertok has travelled to Palestine, in an endeavour to test the atmosphere because communications from Palestine to New York have been extremely inadequate in recent days. I understand that Goldman has seen the Minister of State.

Mr. Lewis Jones, who asked that his remarks should be treated as confidential as he did not wish to be known as the source of our information, said that he had never found Dr. Goldman so sensible or constructive as at the present juncture. The following points of interest emerged from their conversation:-

(1) The Jewish authorities did not intend to set up a fully-fledged state and ask for recognition on the termination of the Mandate. They did not propose to go to the opposite extreme and attempt to disguise the creation of a state by representing it as a Municipal Administrative Council or something of the kind. What they would do would be to set up a provisional state making it clear that they did not wish for recognition, (in order to avoid the unwelcome advances of the Slav bloc) and to make formal application for statehood to the next United Nations Assembly in October.

(2) The Jews were delighted with the recent activity of Great Britain in regard to Palestine. They regarded the Colonial Secretary's recent statement at New York that a Jewish state was virtually in existence as a courageous and helpful recognition of the facts. They thought that we had been far-sighted and wise in our action at Haifa. They interpreted the decision not to attempt to control the whole town as recognition on our part that withdrawal could only be efficiently carried out if an opportunity was given to the Jewish majority to take over control and ensure efficient policing. The Jews were now determined that we should have no further trouble in Haifa and we had by our action ensured their co-operation in our withdrawal.

(3) The Jews were hoping to reach an agreement with Abdullāh provided the latter did not attempt to take too much of Palestine. Mr. Lewis Jones formed the impression from Dr. Goldman that the Jews would not agree to a truce until they saw

what/

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Minutes.

what Abdullah did after May 15. If he proved to be moderate there should be no difficulty from the Jewish side in agreeing a truce.

(4) Talks had already been held between the Haganah and the Arab Legion with a view to joint action to maintain security in Palestine after May 15. The Jews were hopeful of building on this and tightening up arrangements further.

(5) Dr. Goldman repeated that the Jews had made a very solemn and serious decision when they renounced their claim to Jerusalem and agreed to international jurisdiction. They would not go back on this now and would be satisfied in regard to the safety of their compatriots in the City if they could have assurance from some impartial body that the Jews would be fed. Mr. Lewis Jones asked whether the International Red Cross would be acceptable as a guarantor and Dr. Goldman said yes.

Finally Mr. Lewis Jones pointed out that there was a feeling of frustration and annoyance towards the British amongst State Department officials concerned with the United Nations. He suggested that one of the best ways to get over this and put the Palestine question on a new footing, was to treat it pari passu with all other Middle East matters of joint concern after May 15.

Mr Balfour

D. S. Davis

12th May, 1948.

BARB

12.5

Mr. Balfour

12.5

Private Secretary

I wonder whether moderate like Dr Goldman will be able to stand up to Jewish extremists in Palestine. I hope so but I am rather doubtful.

OT August May 12

RECEIVED IN C.B.

18 MAY 1948

SENT TO DEPT.

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112

E

E 6803

20

1948

PALESTINE

25 MAY 1948

Registry Number E 6903/109/31
 FROM Mr Helshy
 No. 10
 to Mr Roberts.
 Dated May 20th
 Received in Registry May 25th.

Views on Situation in Palestine

Encloses a letter from the President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews & asks advice on what reply to send. A previous letter was sent from the Prime Minister to Professor Brodetsky last March answering points on H.M.G. policy in Palestine.

Last Paper

(6755) E 6860

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

Dpt. L.A. Helshy.
 No 10
 from F.K. Roberts
 June 2.

(Action completed)

7/11/56

(Index)

7/11/56

Next Paper

E 6995

(Minutes.)

See within:
 The Board of Deputies of British Jews of May 19.
 Minister of State (Colonial Office) Comps of May 21
 Mr. Pumphrey (Prime Minister's Dept) to Mr. McAlpine of May 26.

Draft reply submitted.

In view of what is said in the second paragraph of Mr Helshy's letter of May 20th, I think the Prime Minister should be advised not to answer at length the many controversial assertions contained in Prof. Brodetsky's letter. I have, however, included a sentence based on Lord Listowel's minute.

D.B. Alpin
 29/5

P.B. Brown
 31.5

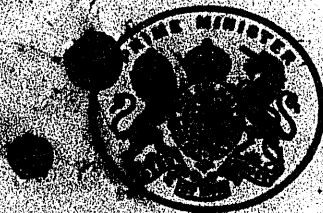
NB
 12/6

See within: - Mr Pumphrey (Prime Minister's Dept) to Mr. Roberts, of 2 June enclosing copy of letter to Prof S. Brodetsky.
 Lane Mill. 14:vi.

D.B.
 12/6

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34987



E: 6903
25 MAY 1948

Enter to com, 21
10, Downing Street,
Whitehall.

20th May, 1948

My dear Roberts.

I enclose a letter which has been addressed to the Prime Minister by the President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. An acknowledgment has been sent and I should be grateful for advice as to what, if any, further reply should be sent.

You ought perhaps to know that on the advice of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Prime Minister wrote a long letter to Professor Brodetsky last March in answer to various points which he had raised on the British Government's policy in Palestine. This called forth a further letter, but since the advice of the Colonial Office was that no good purpose would be served in continuing to argue the matter, nothing but a plain acknowledgment was sent.

Yours ever
Lawrence Helyar

F.K. Roberts, Esq., C.M.G.,
Foreign Office.

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22

E. Dyer

PA
22/5

10 Downing Street,
Whitehall
22nd May, 1942

Dear Sir,

I write on behalf of the Prime
Minister to acknowledge the receipt
of your letter of 19th May, and to
say that it will receive attention.

Yours truly,

(Sgd.) L. N. HILSEY

The President,
The Board of Deputies of British Jews.

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Telephone No. EUSTON 3952-3

Telegrams: Deputies, Kincross, London.

THE LONDON COMMITTEE OF DEPUTIES OF THE BRITISH JEWS

generally known as

The Board of Deputies of British Jews

President:
PROFESSOR S. BRODETSKY.

Vice-Presidents:
DR. ISRAEL FELDMAN.
BARNETT JANNER, M.P.

Treasurer:
B. B. LIEBERMAN.

Solicitor:
CHARLES H. L. EMANUEL.

Secretary:
A. G. BROTMAN.

WOBURN HOUSE,
UPPER WOBURN PLACE,
LONDON, W.C.1.

19th May, 1948.

6903 109/31

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs,
c/o Labour Party Conference,
Scarborough.

Sir,

I have the honour, at the direction of
the Board of Deputies of British Jews, to send
you herewith copy of a letter addressed by the
President of the Board to the Prime Minister, which
deals with urgent matters relating to Palestine
and Jerusalem.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Yours faithfully,

A. G. Brozman
Secretary.

CR/MB.

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24

19th Nov. 1948.

The Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London, W.C.2.

1. The House of Commons of British India, East Bengal, has been informed that the Government of India have decided to withdraw their forces from the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The Government of India have also decided to withdraw their forces from the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The Government of India have also decided to withdraw their forces from the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

2. The Government of India have decided to withdraw their forces from the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The Government of India have also decided to withdraw their forces from the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The Government of India have also decided to withdraw their forces from the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

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4. The Government of India have decided to withdraw their forces from the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The Government of India have also decided to withdraw their forces from the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The Government of India have also decided to withdraw their forces from the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Yours faithfully,
[Signature]

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25

invading force and is perpetrating the shelling by heavy ar-
tillery of the Holy City, which must result in destruction
and damage to the Holy Places. The attached statement given
to the Arab League by His Majesty's Government and by the
British officials concerned is of course a heavy responsibility
upon His Majesty's Government. We therefore call upon His
Majesty's Government both to vindicate all assistance and
British sympathies to the Arab States and to use their good
offices to prevent any further acts of aggression by the
Kingdom of Transjordan.

Yours faithfully,

SGD: S. BRODETSKY

SECRET

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COLONIAL OFFICE,
CHURCH HOUSE,
GREAT SMITH STREET, S.W.1.

E 6903/109/31.

S/S
E. Kent

Ad
21/5

With the compliments of the
Minister of State for
Colonial Affairs.

[Signature]

21st May, 1948.

26

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75872/159/1/48

Prime Minister

27

The Board of Deputies of British Jews have sent to the Secretary of State a copy of their letter to you of the 19th May, making an urgent plea for the "Peace of Jerusalem". I have no doubt that you will be seeking the views of the Foreign Secretary on the major issues raised in this letter, but I feel that in justice to the efforts which the High Commissioner made to obtain a truce in Jerusalem, I should bring one point to your notice which might affect your reply to the Board of Deputies.

A The High Commissioner was asked by the United Nations to supervise the observance of a cease-fire in the Old City of Jerusalem in accordance with undertakings given by Arab and Jewish representatives before the Trusteeship Council, who also agreed that the specific terms of a truce in respect of the Walled City should be elaborated by their representatives in Jerusalem in consultation with the High Commissioner. Sir Alan Cunningham immediately undertook negotiations, in collaboration with the United Nations Truce Commission in Jerusalem, to evolve the terms of a truce, not only for the Old City, which could not be separated in matters of security from the Municipal area, but for the City as a whole. After discussions at Jericho with the Secretary-General of the Arab League on the 7th May, the High Commissioner formulated the terms of a truce for the town-planning area of

Jerusalem

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Jerusalem which he communicated to Arabs and Jews on the 9th May. On the 13th May the Secretary-General of the Arab League announced in Damascus that the Political Committee of the League and the Palestine Arab Higher Committee were prepared to accept the terms formulated by the High Commissioner. Meanwhile the High Commissioner had asked for representatives of the Jewish Agency with full powers to agree to truce proposals for Jerusalem to visit him for discussions. On various pretexts these representatives refrained from approaching the High Commissioner. During the adjournment debate on Jerusalem in the House of Commons on the 13th May, the Parliamentary Under Secretary for the Colonies informed the House of the truce terms elaborated by the High Commissioner and of the Arab acceptance but could not state the attitude of the Jews which was not made clear before the end of the Mandate.

It is thus obvious that the High Commissioner's failure to obtain a truce for Jerusalem on terms which met virtually all the requirements of the Jews was entirely due to the failure of the Jewish Agency to enter into negotiations with him at a time when they may have felt fully confident that they had nothing to gain by acceding to a

truce

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28

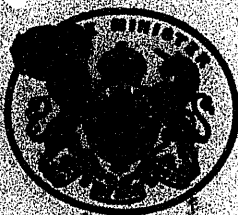
truce and everything to win by resorting to armed force. Subsequent developments may have shaken Jewish confidence in their own position but they have only themselves to blame that battle has now been joined with the Arabs in the Holy City.

I am sending a copy of this minute to the Foreign Secretary.

(Sgd.) Listowel

21st May, 1948.

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Eastern Dept.

29

May we have early
draft please?

10, Downing Street,
Whitehall.

CMA . 26th May, 1948

26/5

E 6903/109/31

My dear Christopher,

On the 20th May Helsby sent Roberts a letter which the Prime Minister had received from the President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, and asked for advice on what, if any, further reply should be sent. Since then you will have received a copy of Lord Listowel's minute to the Prime Minister of the 21st May, which referred to this letter: you will no doubt take this minute into consideration when advising on what reply should be sent to Professor Brodetsky's letter. I wonder whether you are yet in a position to give this advice?

R.D.C. McAlpine, Esq.,
Foreign Office.

Yours ever
Laurie Humphrey

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Registry
No.

OUT FILE

FOREIGN OFFICE,

S.W.1.

June, 1948.

Draft.

Mr. Helsby
10 Downing St.

from Mr. Roberts

I am sorry that I have not been able to reply to your letter of the 20th May, in which you enclosed one from the President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews to the Prime Minister.

I am sure you will appreciate that the Department concerned have been very hard - pressed just recently, and I now enclose for the Prime Minister's approval a draft letter which we suggest he might send to Professor S. Brodetsky.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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31
OUT FILE

FOREIGN OFFICE,

S.W.1.

2nd June, 1948.

I am sorry that I have not been able to reply to your letter of the 20th May, in which you enclosed one from the President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews to the Prime Minister. I am sure you will appreciate that the Department concerned have been very hard-pressed just recently, and I now enclose for the Prime Minister's approval a draft letter which we suggest he might send to Professor Brodetsky.

(Sd.) F. K. ROBERTS.

L.N. Helsby Esq.,
10 Downing Street.

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Registry
No. E 6903/109/31.

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

D.B.

Draft.

Professor S.
BRODETSKY,
President,
The Board of
Deputies of
British Jews,
Woburn House,
Upper Woburn Place
London, W.C.1.

from: Prime
Minister.

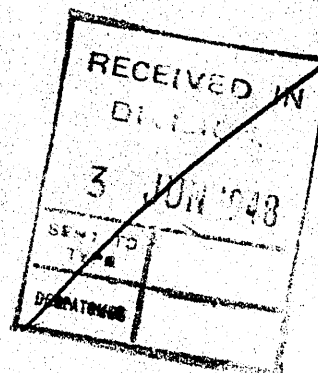
- 1) Mr. Barrows.
- 2) Private Sec.

SAB Simon

81.5

WLS

1.5.



Sir,

Your letter to me of the 19th May, of which you also sent copies to the Foreign Secretary and the Colonial Secretary, has been carefully considered.

The views and aims of H.M. Government with regard to Palestine have been made quite clear in official statements at Lake Success and in London, and I do not think that any useful purpose can be served at present by our engaging in a correspondence which will necessarily be of a highly controversial nature, since I can agree neither with your version of events nor with your interpretation of the principles involved.

While saying this, however, I wish to assure you that the views expressed by your Board of Deputies have been duly noted, and that H.M. Government share the anxiety felt by you, in common with the whole civilized world, for the safety of the Holy Places in Jerusalem. We should all have been spared this anxiety had not the Jewish Agency declined to discuss with the High Commissioner, on the eve of his departure, the terms of a truce for Jerusalem which met virtually all the Agency's requirements and were officially accepted by the Arabs on May 13th; and had not the cease-fire arranged for the Old City been violated by the Stern Gang on his departure. I earnestly hope that the efforts of the Security Council, with which H.M. Government have throughout been closely associated, will now lead to the acceptance by

/ both ..

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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both sides of a truce not only for Jerusalem
but for the whole of Palestine.

Yours sincerely,

RB

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Mr. Roberts,
Foreign Office.

INDEXED

E 6903/109/31

14 JUN 1948

With

Mr. J.L. Pumphrey's

Compliments.

With reference to your
letter to Mr. Helsby
dated 2.6.48.

10, Downing Street,
Whitehall, S.W.1.

2nd June, 1948.

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COPY

10, Downing Street,
Whitehall.

34
P.W. E 6903/107/3

2nd June, 1942.

Your letter to me of the 19th May, of which you also sent copies to the Foreign Secretary and the Colonial Secretary, has been carefully considered.

The views and aims of His Majesty's Government with regard to Palestine have been made quite clear in official statements at Lake Success and in London, and I do not think that any useful purpose can be served at present by our engaging in a correspondence which will necessarily be of a highly controversial nature, since I can agree neither with your version of events nor with your interpretation of the principles involved.

While saying this, however, I wish to assure

you...

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35

you that the views expressed by your Board of Deputies have been duly noted, and that His Majesty's Government share the anxiety felt by you, in common with the whole civilised world, for the safety of the Holy Places in Jerusalem. We should all have been spared this anxiety had not the Jewish Agency declined to discuss with the High Commissioner, on the eve of his departure, the terms of a truce for Jerusalem which met virtually all the Agency's requirements and were officially accepted by the Arabs on May 13th; and had not the cease-fire arranged for the Old City been violated by the Stern Gang on his departure. I earnestly hope that the efforts of the Security Council, with which His Majesty's Government have throughout been closely associated, will now lead to the acceptance by both sides of a truce not only for Jerusalem but for the whole of Palestine.

(SGD) C.R. ATTLEE.

Professor S. Brodetsky.

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Keep

36

20 11. Field Marshal Smuts' party has suffered a defeat in the general elections in South Africa. The United Party gained 74 seats in Parliament, while Dr Hain's party gained 79.

20 12. An official statement has been issued by the provisional Government of Israel in connection with British allegations that it was the Jewish Government in Jerusalem which broke the truce agreement. The statement says that the British Foreign Minister alleged in the House of Commons on 11th May that it was the Jews who violated the truce. The statement says that the British High Commissioner, Sir Alexander Gurney, in the House of Commons on 11th May, a spokesman of the provisional Government of Israel, said that the allegations to be a complete distortion of the facts. The statement says that the Jewish Government in Jerusalem was not responsible for the violation of the truce. The statement says that the Jewish Government in Jerusalem was not responsible for the violation of the truce. The statement says that the Jewish Government in Jerusalem was not responsible for the violation of the truce.

After consulting with the Arab representatives in Jerusalem and other negotiations with the Jewish representatives, the British High Commissioner issued the terms of truce five in Jerusalem. The terms of truce were: 1. The Jews must not attack the Arabs. 2. The Jews must not use force against the Arabs. 3. The Jews must not use force against the Arabs. 4. The Jews must not use force against the Arabs. 5. The Jews must not use force against the Arabs.

The High Commissioner of the Security Council has made another attempt. The Jewish representatives notified the High Commissioner that they were ready to accept the terms of truce.

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Class.....371
Piece.....68631..

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in the Department of origin
under Section 3 (4) of the
Public Records Act, 1958

E: 7107/109/31

115	E	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> E 7646 </div> <div style="position: absolute; top: -20px; right: -20px; font-size: 1.5em;">37</div>
1948	PALESTINE	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> 8 JUN 1948 </div>
<p>Registry Number } E7646/109/31</p> <p>FROM BOSTON @ (Consulate General)</p> <p>No. 19</p> <p>Dated 2 Jun 48</p> <p>Received in Registry } 8 Jun 48</p>		<p><u>Anti-British manifestations by Jews in Boston.</u></p> <p>Transmits copy of despatch dated 2 Jun to His Majesty's Ambassador, Washington, reporting anti-British demonstrations by Jews in Boston. Irish leanings of "Boston Post" have kept alive the discontent felt at trend of events in Palestine. Reports picketing of Consulate-General, and granting of interview to deputation supposed to represent American Federation of Labor but all appearing to be Jewish. Also encloses copy of letter handed in by the deputation, and extract from "Boston Globe" dated 2 Jun 48.</p>
<p>Last Paper</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">7107</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">(Minutes.)</p> <div style="font-family: cursive; font-size: 1.2em;"> MEID N.A. 12/51 I.P.D. 12/51 15/6 </div> <div style="position: absolute; right: 50px; top: 50px; font-family: cursive; font-size: 1.2em;"> JB June 9 </div>	
<p>References</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">(Print)</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">(How disposed of)</p> </div>	
<p>(Action completed)</p> <p style="font-family: cursive; font-size: 1.2em;"> PP 1/7/6 </p>		
<p>(Index)</p> <p style="font-family: cursive; font-size: 1.2em;"> 12/51 </p>		
<p>Next Paper</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em;">7648</p>		

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> 123456 </div>	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE
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E 38

HIS Majesty's Consul General, Boston
presents his compliments to The Under-Secretary for
Foreign Affairs
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned
documents.

British Consulate General,
Boston 9,
U.S.A.

2nd June, 1948.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
H.M. Consul-General's despatch to H.M. Ambassador, Washington 2nd June, 1948 (copy)	Demonstration by local labour groups on the subject of Palestine.

E 7646
8 JUN 1948

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39

British

194

Reference to previous correspondence:

Description of Enclosure:

Name and Date.

Subject.

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46

BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL,

BOSTON 9.

No. 42

Copy to Foreign Office
No. 19.

2nd June, 1948.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that recently there have been some manifestations of anti-British feeling in Boston. They have, of course, all been based on the Palestine situation and, hitherto, have not been of a serious nature. The chief organ of publicity has been, as usual, the BOSTON POST, which, with its strong Irish flavour, rarely misses an opportunity to comment unfavourably on the United Kingdom - or, it would be more correct to say, England.

2. Yesterday a telephone message was received from a Mr. Elmer Foster of the Massachusetts Federation of Labor asking for an appointment for himself and "some friends" to interview me today. Though I had no doubt they wished to discuss Palestine, I felt it would do more harm than good to refuse to accede to the request, so an interview was arranged for noon today. I suggested that the delegation should be limited to three persons.

3. This morning the BOSTON POST announced that this Consulate-General was to be picketed from noon to 1.30 p.m. by Zionist organizations. The pickets began to arrive at about 11.30 and by 12.00 noon there were, perhaps, one hundred parading in front of the building in which the Consulate-General has its offices. They carried about a dozen placards bearing slogans such as "Britain sabotages U.N. efforts for peace" and "More Strength for the Haganah" and others. At about 12.30 the building superintendent, of his own initiative, telephoned to the Police and complained that entrance to and egress from the building was being obstructed. When the police came a few minutes later the pickets sang "The Star Spangled Banner" and dispersed.

4. In the meantime I was interviewing the delegation. It consisted of Mr. John Del Monte, President of the Massachusetts Federation of Labor, a Mr. A. G. Clifton representing Mr. Joseph Salerno, President of the Massachusetts Congress of Industrial Organizations, and Mr. Philip Kramer, National Vice-President of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union. The interview was perfectly friendly and completely free from acrimony or even argument. I told the delegates that I was quite prepared to transmit a letter which they had brought with them both to Your Excellency and to the Foreign Office, but that it was outside the scope of my authority to discuss matters of high policy. After perhaps fifteen minutes conversation photographers from the Hearst press and the Boston Daily GLOBE were admitted and the three delegates and myself were photographed together. The delegates then left in peace and harmony.

5. While

His Excellency His Majesty's Ambassador,

British Embassy,

WASHINGTON 8, D.C.

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6. The attitude of most of the local press towards the unfortunate Palestine affair has not been unduly captious. There have been criticisms of the policy of His Majesty's Government but on the whole, and particularly within the last two or three weeks, it must be admitted that they have not been unreasonably censorious. And so far as the general public goes, the comments I have heard have been for the most part sympathetic. But of course there is a large Jewish community here and their views, I have no doubt, are vitriolic. They keep, however, largely to themselves.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient,
 humble Servant,

(Signed) C. E. Whitamore

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C O P Y

42

June 2, 1948.

The British Consul
10 Post Office Square
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir;

We will be grateful to you if you will convey the following message to the British Labor Government.

The State of Israel is at this moment under invasion from three sides by Arab armies from neighboring Arab states. The British government alone, of the three great world powers, has refused to recognize the realities of Arab aggression. The British government alone, of the three great world powers, has refused to recognize the State of Israel.

What is particularly ironic is that present British policy should be shaped by a government which calls itself a Labor government. It is incomprehensible that the British Labor Party, founded as it is on principles of cooperation and democracy, should at this fateful moment align itself with Arab aggressors. Can the British labor movement forget its Party Conference pledges at Brighton, Scarborough, Llandudno, Edinburgh, Bournemouth, Southport and London; can it forget the numerous declarations and speeches at the Trade Union congresses, and in Parliament, which have consistently supported Jewish Palestine, and protested against the many attempts made to check the growth of the Jewish National Home.

We, of the American Labor movement, call upon the British labor government to be consistent and to carry out its promise made to Jewish Palestine.

Open warfare has been declared upon Israel! Hundreds of Jews have been killed, settlements have been destroyed, the work of a generation of pioneering labor is in grave jeopardy!

We call upon the British Labor government to cease its support of Arab aggression against Israel. British
military

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43

military personnel serving with Arab forces must be recalled; supplies, arms and munitions which have the British trademark and go through British hands must be cut off from the Arab forces.

The right of Jews of Israel to live their peaceful, progressive, pioneering lives must supersede British treaty obligations with fascist states, and by its policy of appeasement, Britain is selling out the only true democracy in the Near East - Israel.

We, of American Labor, have consistently supported British labor and the British peoples. We supported the 1946 American loan; we supported aid to the war-ravaged countries of Europe through the ERP. But we will not support aid to an England which is diverting its own monies, men and supplies to aid the Arab states against Israel!

Only by recognizing the State of Israel, by withdrawing aid from the Arab states without equivocation, and by sincerely working for peace in the Near East through the support of the Jewish and Arab labor movements can the British Labor government expect to retain the firm support and admiration of American Labor.

John Del Monte
President, Mass. Federation
of Labor

Joseph Salerno
President, Mass. C.I.O.

Philip Kramer
Nat'l Vice Pres., Internat.
Ladies Garment Workers Union

Jacob Blume
Sec'y-Treas., Joint Board
N.E. Amalgam. Clothing Workers
Union

Nathan Barker,
Manager, Local 24 I.L.G.W.
Union

Philip Barron
President, New England Labor
Zionist Organization

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116	E	E 7648 64
1948	PALESTINE	8 JUN 1948
<p>Registry Number E7648/109/31 FROM ROME (Chancery) No. 566/19/48 Dated 4 Jun 48 Received in Registry 8 Jun 48</p> <p>Deporting of Jews from Altit prison, Palestine, to the United Kingdom. Encloses copy of letter dated 5 May 48 from President of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities and the Chief Rabbi of Rome, alleging that Jews at present held in Altit prison, Palestine, are to be deported to the United Kingdom, and appealing for assistance from British authorities. Union of Italian Jewish Communities is the official representation of Italian Jewry, is controlled by Zionists and has been connected with illegal emigration to Palestine.</p>		
Last Paper 7646	(Minutes.) Quite incorrect Western Sept. 10/6	
References	10 June 9	
(Print)		
(How disposed of)		
(Action completed) 4/6	(Index) [Signature]	
Next Paper E7710		

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TELEPHONE
ROME 776551.



E 65
BRITISH EMBASSY,
ROME.

4th June, 1948.

566/19/48.

Dear Department,

We enclose for your information a copy of a letter addressed to the Ambassador and signed by the President of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities and the Chief Rabbi of Rome, in which an appeal is made against an alleged decision to deport to the United Kingdom the prisoners at present held in the Atlit gaol in Palestine. As no address is given on the letter an acknowledgement has not been sent.

2. For your information the Union of Italian Jewish Communities is the official representation of Italian Jewry. It is controlled by the Zionists and has naturally been clearly connected with the organisation of illegal emigration to Palestine.

3. We regret that by an oversight we have not forwarded this appeal to you before. No doubt, however, it would not have affected any decision which may have been made.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY.

Eastern Department,
FOREIGN OFFICE.

E 7648

8 JUN 1948

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46
COPY.

UNIONE DELLE COMUNITA
ISRAELITICHE ITALIANE

ROMA.

R.D. 30 Ottobre 1930 No. 1731

5th May, 1948.

Sir Victor Mallet,
British Ambassador,
Rome.

A desperate plea has reached us from a number of Jewish families in Palestine against an alleged decision of deporting the young men and women actually detained at the Atlit prison to other parts of the United Kingdom. We refuse to believe that such a decision of deporting these young people at the moment of the cessation of the British Mandate in Palestine could have been made by your Government.

The natural laws give the judges the power to hold trial, but, at the same time, modern civilisation accords a prisoner, if convicted the right to demand that he undergo punishment in the land where he committed his crime. Why recall the recent sad times when the now defeated barbarians used to evacuate also their prisoners from the jails during their retreats. The 106 sons and daughters of Jewish families of Palestine, whatever crime they may have committed cannot be deported from their families and their land.

We had to go through appalling sufferings in the past ten years, we saw our dearest deported never to return. This may shed light although it will fail to justify, on acts of despair committed by men and women who sometimes are unable to control their reactions to the events.

The Jews of Italy are appealing to the British Ambassador in order that you inform your Government of the distress and painful impression the above mentioned news has aroused in this country. The whole Italian people is watching with sympathy the efforts of Palestine's Jews, for in the past the Italians too, had to go through similar phases before they could regain their independence. It would, therefore not be difficult to find signatures for a manifestation of protest against the decision of deporting the prisoners, but we feel confident that our voice, transmitted by you, will suffice so that the Atlit prisoners may remain in the prison of the country where they were tried and where they have the right to undergo punishment.

We trust that this appeal will be favourably considered by the competent departments of the British Government, thus giving proof that there is still humane sentiment with the powerful of this world.

Respectfully,

(Signed)

Prof. David Prato
Chief Rabbi of Rome,
President Rabbinical
Council for Italy.

Raffaele Cantoni
President, Union
Italian Jewish Communities.

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1948	E	E 7775 67
	SAUDI ARABIA	10 JUN 1948

Registry Number E7775/118/25	<u>Volunteers for the Arab Forces.</u>
FROM Jeddah Chancery to Eastern Dept 841/182/48	Encloses copy of a letter from Brigadier Baird Head of the British Military Mission to Saudi Arabia asking what reply he should make to would-be volunteers to the Arab Forces. Requests advice.
No.	
Dated June 6th	Copied Cairo, Bagdad, Damascus, Beirut and Amman.
Received in Registry	

Last Paper E 6996	(Minutes)
References	I submit a draft reply, based on minutes on other papers now in action.
(Print)	Mr. Enghs first night 28/6.
	<i>[Signature]</i> CF & CAP HE 28/6

(How disposed of)	
H. Chancery, Jeddah, from E Dept July 5th	
E Dept Comps	
Amman, Bagdad, Beirut, Cairo, Damascus } Chancery	
July 5th over	
(Action completed)	(Index)
<i>[Signature]</i>	17/10/48

Next Paper E 8239	
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E 1113

6481 JUL 61

E Dept. Comp.

Consulate
Haifa ~~Golgotha~~

Jerusalem C. G.
Bure

July

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British Embassy,

Jedda.

6th June 1948

No. 841/182/48

E 7775

10 JUN 1948

Dear Department,

We enclose a copy of a letter which the Ambassador has received from Brigadier Baird, the Head of the British Military Mission to Saudi Arabia. We should be grateful if you could indicate to us the lines on which Brigadier Baird could be advised to reply to potential volunteers for the Arab Forces, and on which indeed, we should reply ourselves, if we receive any such applications.

2. We are sending copies of this letter and its enclosure to the Chanceries at Cairo, Bagdad, Damascus, Beirut and Amman, to the British Middle East Office and to the Consulate at Jerusalem.

Yours ever,

JEDDA CHANCERY.



The Eastern Department,
FOREIGN OFFICE.

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Enclosure in Jeddah letter No. 841/182/48 of the 6th June 1948.

C O P Y.

From: Brigadier J.E.A. Baird.

The British Military Mission
to
Saudi Arabia, Taif.
M.E.L.F.

SA/GEN/6

27th May 48.

A.C. Trott, Esq., C.M.G.,
The British Embassy,
Jeddah.

My dear Trott,

I have been receiving letters from ex officers and others in England asking whether they can join the Arab Army or come and fight for the Arab cause. I have not replied to them and should be grateful if you would advise me as to what I should do.

An article appeared in the "Sunday Empire News" of May 2nd in which someone who wants to fight said that he had been advised by the Saudi Arabian Embassy in London to write to me.

The article ends with the following remarks:-

"But an official of the Colonial Office said: 'We have no knowledge of any approaches being made to Brigadier Baird. Possibly the Brigadier advises the writers of the legal obligations to this country.'"

An official of the Foreign Office said: "The legal position of 'volunteers' for foreign military service is not clear. Technically any person joining without special permission is liable to prosecution."

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) J.E.A. BAIRD.

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Registry
No. E 7775/118/25

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

Draft. LETTER

Chancery, *ES*
Jedda.

(from Eastern
Department)

Copies to:

Chanceries at:
AMMAN.
BAGDAD.
BEIRUT.
CAIRO.
DAMASCUS.

Consulate-General:

HAIFA.
JERUSALEM.

BMEQ, CAIRO.

3- JUL 1948

SENT TO
TYPE
3/7
RECEIVED
3/7

Mr. Evans first.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

440) Wt. 3903/155 100m. 3/48 A.O.S.

On the other hand, as long as the truce lasts, H.M.G. are bound by negotiation of the truce to prevent the departure from British territory of such persons from the practical point of view, therefore, the truce makes little difference.

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

June 1948.

Dear Chancery,

We suggest that you might reply to Brigadier Baird's request for guidance on the position of British subjects volunteering for the Arab forces, which you passed on to us in your letter No. 841/182/48 of the 6th June, by referring him to the provisions of the Foreign Enlistment Act of 1870.

2. We are advised that any British subject, who accepts or agrees to accept any commission or engagement ⁱⁿ with the armed forces either of the Jewish or of the Arab authorities involved in the present hostilities, will be liable to prosecution under the terms ^{Article 1 of} of this Act. We are also advised that the Act does not apply to persons already serving in such forces before the outbreak of hostilities. The effect of the 'cease fire' on the application of the Act is doubtful, since the truce is temporary and presupposes the existence of a state of war. It may safely be said, however, ^{persons accepting or agreeing to accept a commission or engagement} that even during the truce ~~such persons would be~~ ^{in the risk of} similarly liable to prosecution. ^{N.P. 3.} The legal

complexities of the situation are such that we have not yet decided whether or not to make a public announcement about the applicability of the Foreign Enlistment Act. We consider, however, that Brigadier Baird or any of His Majesty's Missions who may receive enquiries on this subject would be fully justified in replying on these lines.

We are copying this letter to the recipients of yours and to the Consulate-General at Haifa.

Yours ever,
EASTERN DEPARTMENT.

#13.27

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OUT FILE 51
FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

5th July, 1948.

(E 7775/118/25)
RESTRICTED

Dear Chancery,

We suggest that you might reply to Brigadier Baird's request for guidance on the position of British subjects volunteering for the Arab forces, which you passed on to us in your letter No. 841/182/48 of the 6th June, by referring him to the provisions of the Foreign Enlistment Act of 1870.

2. We are advised that any British subject, who accepts or agrees to accept any commission or engagement in the armed forces either of the Jewish or of the Arab authorities involved in the present hostilities will be liable to prosecution under the terms of Article 1 of this Act. We are also advised that the Act does not apply to persons already serving in such forces before the outbreak of hostilities. The effect of the 'cease fire' on the application of the Act is doubtful, since the truce is temporary and presupposes the existence of a state of war. It may safely be said, however, that even persons accepting or agreeing to accept a commission or engagement during the truce would run the risk of prosecution. Moreover, so long as the truce lasts, His Majesty's Government are bound by a resolution of the Security Council to prevent the departure from British territory of such persons. From the practical point of view, therefore, the truce makes little difference.

3. The legal complexities of the situation are such that we have not yet decided whether or not to make a public announcement about the applicability of the Foreign Enlistment Act. We consider, however, that
/Brigadier

The Chancery,
British Embassy,
Jedda.

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Brigadier Baird or any of His Majesty's Missions
who may receive enquiries on this subject would
be fully justified in replying on these lines.

We are copying this letter to the recipients
of yours and to the Consulate at Haifa.

Yours ever,

EASTERN DEPARTMENT.

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E 8271

52

1948

PALESTINE

19 JUN 1948

Registry Number | E 8271/109/31

FROM P.O. Minute
(Mr. Pym)

No.

Dated 14 Jun 48

Received in Registry | 19 Jun 48

Possible connection between Jewish extremists and Russia or Russian satellites.

Middle East Information Department wish to know if there is any publishable evidence of a connection between Jewish extremists and Russia or Russian satellites. Has no recollection of such evidence, but suggests that it may be advisable to telegraph the posts in Palestine and ask them to pay particular attention to this aspect.

Last Paper

E 8120

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

Tel. Haifa 130.

General. 224.

June 17.

(Action completed)

16/7

(Index)

2/2/49

Next Paper

8317

34967

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Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

Minutes.

Enter 53

Middle East Information
Department are anxious to know if we have
any publishable evidence of a connexion
between the Jewish extremists such as the
Stern Gang, and the I.Z.L. and the Russians
or Russian satellites. My impression is that
we have not. If my impression is right it
would be worth telegraphing to our posts
in Palestine to ask them to pay particular
attention to this question.

E 8271

19 JUN 1948

L.F.L. Pyman

(L.F.L. Pyman)

14th June, 1948.

Mr. Beith } for any obs.
Mr. Balfour }

I think Mr Balfour knows more
of this than I do JB June 16

We have no publishable information of any direct
connexion, except for recent statements by both that the Jews must
look to the USSR for support in their present struggle.
Tel. sent

H73.

17/6

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Registry E824/109/31
No. 109/31

Top Secret.
~~SECRET~~
~~SECRET~~
~~SECRET~~
~~SECRET~~

L.
F.
L.
P.

OUT FILE
CYPHER

Despatched

M.

Draft.

Haifa 130.

Jerusalem 224.

Telegram.

No.

(Date) June 17

Repeat to:—

TOP SECRET.

22 JUN 1948

Addressed to Haifa telegram No. 130
of the 17th June and Jerusalem ~~telegram~~
No. — of the —

In reporting on Jewish activities
it would be helpful if you would pay
particular attention to the question of any
connexion there may be between the Jewish
extremists, such as the Stern Gang and the
I.Z.L., and the Russians or Russian satellites.
In reporting ~~any information you may have on~~
~~this subject~~ please signify which items are
publishable and which not.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

Cypher.

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DEPARTMENTAL.

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Cypher/OTP.

Top Secret.

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO HAIFA.

No. 130.

D. 4.0 p.m. 17th June 1948.

17th June 1948.

AND ALSO TO: Jerusalem No. 224.

TOP SECRET.

Addressed to Haifa telegram No.130 of the
17th June, and Jerusalem.

In reporting on Jewish activities it would be helpful if you would pay particular attention to the question of any connexion there may be between the Jewish extremists, such as the Stern Gang and the I.Z.L., and the Russians or Russian satellites. In reporting please signify which items are publishable and which not.

W:W:W:W:W

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E 8517

56

1948

PALESTINE

21 JUN 1948

Registry Number E8317/109/31

FROM F.O. Minute
(Mr. Roberts)

No.

Dated 11 Jun 48

Received in Registry 21 Jun 48

Attitude of the T.U.C. to Palestine.

The Secretary of State saw Mr Tewson on 10 Jun. They discussed a telegram the T.U.C. had received from the Palestine General Federation of Trade Unions proposing a good will mission from Palestine to Britain, and it was agreed that no decision be made until the result of the Truce could be seen. They also discussed a letter from the American Federation of Labour about T.U.C. support for the recognition of the State of Israel. Mr Tewson showed the Secretary of State a very satisfactory reply already drafted by the T.U.C.

Last Paper

E 8271

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

PP 12/6

(Index)

2/2/48

Next Paper

E 8381

(Minutes.)

See within:-

✓ FO Minute (Mr Balfour) 14 June 48.

4.2.48.

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Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

Sir O. Sargent
Mr. Wright
Eastern Dept.

Minutes.

E. 8517 E 57

21 JUN 1948

The Secretary of State saw Mr. Tewson yesterday and discussed with him:-

- (i) A telegram which the T.U.C. had received from the Palestine General Federation of Trade Unions proposing a goodwill mission to British from Palestine, and
- (ii) A letter from the American Federation of Labour about T.U.C. support for the recognition of the State of Israel.

It was agreed in regard to (i) that the T.U.C. should take the line that no decision should be reached until it could be clearly seen what was likely to emerge from the present Truce, and in regard to (ii) Mr. Tewson showed the Secretary of State the very satisfactory reply already drafted by the T.U.C.

H. Roberts

11th June, 1948.

What is the Palestine General Federation of Trade Unions? Is it a Zionist body? How much influence does it exercise?

G. P. 11

Mr. Balfour

See separate minutes

D. Balfour

14/6

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Minutes.

enter 58

Mr. Halford.

Sir O. Sargent's minute on the attached paper: "What is the Palestine General Federation of Trade Unions? Is it a Zionist body? How much influence does it exercise?"

2. The Palestine General Federation of Trade Unions, or more correctly "The General Federation of Jewish Labour in Palestine" (in Hebrew, the "Histadruth") is the largest trade union organisation in Palestine, embracing a substantial majority of the Jewish working class population. Membership is open to all workers irrespective of political party, but until the end of 1945 Communists were excluded. The General Federation is strongly Socialist, although it includes a section which does not claim to be Socialist.

3. All parties within the Histadruth are Zionist.

4. It is perhaps the most influential of all organised bodies in modern Jewish Palestinian politics. The Prime Minister, Ben Gurion, rose to his present position by being the leader of the Histadruth. It is affiliated to the World Federation of Trade Unions (W.F.T.U.) and controls considerable funds and a well-organised network of newspapers, clubs, co-operatives, marketing enterprises, etc.

D Balfour

D. Balfour.
14th June, 1948.

Sir O. Sargent

Mujoy 14/6

Mr Gee. away till mid. July. 12/6
Mr Roberts
13/6
Balfour 15

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE					
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E 8381

59

1948

PALESTINE

22 JUN 1948

Registry Number | E8381/109/31

FROM BUDAPEST
(Legation)

No. 135/25/48

Dated 18 Jun 48

Received in Registry | 22 Jun 48

Alleged recruiting for Haganah in Hungary.

Rumour has it that recruiting for Haganah is taking place in Hungary. Volunteers, who must be of Jewish race and have trade or profession likely to be useful to the "State of Israel", get in touch with a local Haganah organisation, who obtain passports and visas. Added attractions are substantial bonus and very high pay.

Similar movements are said to be going on in other countries of South East Europe.

Last Paper

E 8317

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

GC/28/6

(Index)

28/6/48

Next Paper

E 8659

~~E 8659~~

(Minutes.)

True I shd. imagine, but no longer our business.

Scutcheon Dept: *W. H.*

4/22/48

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34967

British Legation,

BUDAPEST.

135/25/48.

18th June, 1948

Dear Department,

We pass on with all reserve the following report about allied recruiting for Haganah in Hungary. At best it has a C.2 assessment.

2. Volunteers wishing to go to Palestine are said to get in touch with the local Haganah organization which, if the applicants are approved, obtain passports and exit visas. Applicants need not be of the Jewish faith but must be of the Jewish race and have a trade or profession likely to be useful to the State of Israel. Four former pilots of the Soviet-Hungarian air-line Maszovlet were flown to Prague on the 14th June as Haganah recruits en route for Palestine. In addition to a very substantial bonus in Hungarian currency on first joining, they were to receive very high pay (presumably in dollars) in Palestine.

3. Similar movements are said to be going on in other countries of South East Europe.

Yours ever,
CHANCERY.

Southern Dept.,
Foreign Office.

E. 8381

22 JUN 1948

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